
Subject: Re: variable types

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Fri, 20 Feb 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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David R. Klassen wrote:

>
> I'm in the process of writing a quick and dirty program to
> go through a text file and grab the lines that are ordered
> pairs of numbers and plot them. The problem comes with the
> fact that some of these data files have a line or two of
> text at the top.
>
> When I read each line of the file I parse it along white-spaces
> or tabs using the PARTS function (no problem so far). Then I
> assign the first two parts to my x and y arrays. The problem
> is that if the line read was a line of text, the parts can not
> be converted from string type to float type (it turns out that
> a string ' 13.456' *can* be turned into a float=13.456).
>
> My question: is there a way to test the variable type before
> I make the assignments?
>

yes, you will probably have to read in your line as string (it is really a pity that the '\$' format code does not work during input!), then you can either go David's way to catch the error or test for a number yourself:

```
readf,s [,format='(A)']  
test = strpos('0123456789.+-',strmid(strtrim(s,1),0,1)) ge 0
```

Fortran data files sometimes use a line format like

N x1 x2 x3 ... xN, so you need to extract the first number before you can read the others. In these cases, you should also read the line into a string, [test the first character for a number] and then extract the numbers using READS.

Regards,
Martin.

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